

## MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2003

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Interview with Janie O'Keefe

Janie O'Keefe is producing an educational video about Alice Moseley, a 93-year-old retired teacher, folk artist and story teller. It's my understanding that you have met her before (she lived in Batesville for a while) and that you have a painting of hers, "Batesville Square."

Janie is wanting some of your thoughts about Ms. Moseley, as well as some comments about arts and education. You can share an anecdote or two about Ms. Moseley, and then launch into the education message.

A couple of points:

- Education must be first priority for MS
  - Making great progress
    - Teacher pay / 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> when fully implemented
    - Test scores up / accountability standards stronger than "No Child Left Behind"
    - Princeton Review: MS has 6<sup>th</sup> best testing system in nation
    - MS 6<sup>th</sup> in nation in National Board Certified Teachers
    - Computers in Classroom
- Arts are also a key component in our progress
  - We have a responsibility to encourage and support talented students who share creativity, vision, method and message through art
- Support of the arts is an investment in education, in economic development, in historical preservation
  - More importantly, it's an investment in our future

Janie is also working on updating a video called "Destination: Gulf Coast" and would like to tape a comment on the value of the Coast for the state's tourism. Suggested statement:

"The Mississippi Gulf Coast is a cornerstone of our tourism efforts. With its beautiful beaches, golf courses, and resort areas, it is a popular destination point for visitors from around the country and beyond. With our efforts now to attract a cruise line to the Coast, the potential for this area has never been stronger."